(b) if so, what was the precise nature of the conflict and what was Government's response to Libya's request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Libya drew India's attention to US threats and imposition of economic sanctions as also to the hijacking of their civilian aircraft by Israeli Military aircraft and sought our support. We have issued statements supportive of Libya. The Non-aligned Coordinating Bureau meeting in New York at Libyan request has also issued statements which are in support of Libya.

Evolution of a formula by the Sri Lankan Government on stateless persons

485. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Government, in consultation with the Ceylon Workers' Congress, had evolved a formula to deal with the problem of Tamils of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, particularly the Stateless persons;

(b) if so, what is Government's information regarding this formula; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 94,000 stateless persons of Indian origin who had not applied for Indian citizenship when the 1964 and 1974 Agreements lapsed, are to be granted Sri Lanka citizenship. India has agreed to grant citizenship to all eligible persons whose applications for Indian citizenship were pending, within a period of 8 months from the date on which Sri Lanka enacts legislation for the grant of Sri Lankan citizenship to the residual numbers of stateless persons of Indian origin as indicated above.

(c) The Government is satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations as a result of which the issue of statelessness of persons of Indian origin in Sri Lanka will be brought to an end.

Criticism of South Africa by the Commonwealth Secretary-General

486. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commonwealth Secretary-General, at a talk organised by the Commonwealth Society of India at India International Centre in New Delhi on January 20, 1986, lashed out at the apartheid policy pursued by the Pretoria Government of South Africa;

(b) if so, what further steps to fight this policy of South Africa were indicated by the Commonwealth Secretary-General; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes Madam; the Commonwealth Secretary-General described apartheid as the 'modern face of slavery'.

(b) The Commonwealth Secretary-Generay recalled the Commonwealth Accord on Southern Africa adopted at Nassau in October '85 and the steps taken by him to set up a Group of Eminent Persons to encourage a process of dialogue in South Africa, as envisaged under the Commonwealth Accord.

(c) India has nominated a distinguished Indian to the Eminent Persons Group and is strongly supportive of the objectives of the Commonwealth Accord to start a dialogue for dismantling the aparthied system.

Annual Plan for Madhya Pradesh for 1986-87

487. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual plan for 1986-87 for Madhya Pradesh has been finalised;